



RESEARCH BACTERIOLOGY-BLDG.54

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

HOSPITAL

HINES, ILLINOIS

July 16, 1952

YOUR FILE REFERENCE:

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
College of Agriculture  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Your request that I repeat my experiments in obtaining small colony variants with 2-methyl 1,4-naphthoquinone has not gone unheeded, as you may well think at this point. It happened to arrive at an unusually busy period and I have not been able until recently to set up the test.

Unfortunately, the only sample of quinone available at the present time has deteriorated considerably. The original experiments were made with a very pure product synthesized in the chemical laboratories of the company in which I was working.

In the one test I have managed to do, small colony variants have appeared in considerable numbers in subcultures of one dilution of quinone, but not in pure culture as I had originally obtained them. Moreover, brief trials at subculture have indicated that they lack the stability of the original strains I had obtained; that is, they revert more quickly, or else subcultures are mixed colonies of the small colony forms and reverts. I suspect that the impurity of the quinone may be responsible.

I am not giving up yet-I am still testing various picked colonies for stability and will be able soon to repeat the whole experiment. I should like very much to be able to send you a stable culture of dwarf colonies.

Sincerely,

Charlotte A. Colwell